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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/502,142	07/20/2004	Nicolaas Lambert	NL020055	3375
24737	7590	02/05/2008	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS			FISHBURN, JOHN P	
P.O. BOX 3001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			2186	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/05/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/502,142	LAMBERT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	John P. Fishburn	2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-3 and 9-12, drawn to a data storage apparatus and method, in particular a disc drive formatted in a pre-determined format architecture comprising a plurality of at least one format feature, wherein the format architecture provides a plurality of spare area arrays wherein each of the spare area arrays is respectively assigned to essentially each of the plurality of the at least one format feature, wherein at least one spare area array is passed beyond the head at least once between any two successive track switches.

Group II, claim(s) 4-7, drawn to a data storage apparatus, wherein the format architecture provides a skew for two adjacent tracks being a mutual circumferential shift in place of corresponding sectors of two adjacent tracks.

Group III, claim(s) 8, 13, and 14, drawn to a method for handling a data storage apparatus wherein the data are sequentially transferred and are intermediately stored in sequential order in

a buffer memory and the data transfer is recorded by a controller and subsequent the data are read out from the buffer memory and are transmitted to the host in logical order.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, and III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

As stated in the PCT International Search Report submitted with this case, each of US 6,341,045, US 6,225,441, US 5,271,018, and EP 1,017,055 anticipates claim 1. These references also anticipate the limitations of claim 9. For example US 6,341,045 teaches wherein upon a data request of a host a controller provides at least one format feature of the data, in particular at least a track and a sector, and wherein the medium is rotated and a head is moved and actuated to access the format feature to transfer data therewith, ..., such that a spare area is passed beyond the head at least once before a track switch (column 7 lines 28-42).

Thus the common technical features of Groups I and II, of Groups II and III, and of groups III and I, are shown by the prior art.

Group I has separate utility in that spare areas located close to a user area can be used without a circumferential shift in place of corresponding sectors of adjacent tracks (Group II), and can also be used without on-arrival sequential transfer of data to a buffer followed by logical-order transfer from buffer to host (Group III).

Group II has separate utility in that a circumferential shift in place of corresponding sectors of adjacent tracks can be used without having spare areas located close to a user area (Group I), and can also be used without on-arrival sequential transfer of data to a buffer followed by logical-order transfer from buffer to host (Group III).

Group III has separate utility in that on-arrival sequential transfer of data to a buffer followed by logical-order transfer from buffer to host can be used without having spare areas located close to a user area (Group I), and can also be used without a circumferential shift in place of corresponding sectors of adjacent tracks (Group II).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

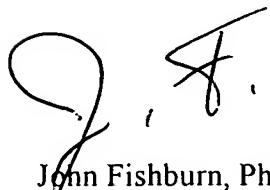
Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Fishburn whose telephone number is 571-270-1727, and whose fax number is 571-270-2727. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30a-5pm ET. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Kim, can be reached on 571-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



John Fishburn, PhD

22 January 2008



MATTHEW KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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